

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A Method method for sterilizing a hollow bodies body (9) having an opening (8)[[,]] ~~of a consistent type to deposit by depositing on the surfaces a surface of the hollow body~~ to be sterilized a sterilizing agent that is previously vaporized, ~~characterized in that it consists of carrying out the comprising:~~

vaporizing of the agent outside of the opening of the hollow body; and

~~, close to its opening and with the use of a means of aspiration opening out into the hollow body opposite the said opening, to cause distributing the vaporized agent on the surface to be sterilized by creating a gaseous current for guiding the vaporized agent toward all of the surface[[s]] to be sterilized by use of a means of aspiration, which has an opening that is within the hollow body and opposite the opening of the hollow body in order to distribute the agent on all of the said surfaces.~~

2. (currently amended): A Method method for sterilizing a hollow bodies body (38) having two openings, ~~of a consistent type for by~~ depositing on the surfaces a surface of the hollow body to be sterilized a sterilizing agent that is previously vaporized, ~~characterized in that it consists of implementing the comprising:~~

vaporizing of the agent outside of one of the openings of the hollow body; and

~~, close to one of its openings and with the use of a means of aspiration opening out into the hollow body opposite the said opening, to cause distributing the vaporized agent on the surface to be sterilized by creating a gaseous current for guiding the vaporized agent toward all of the surface[[s]] to be sterilized by use of a means of aspiration, which has an opening that is~~

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within the hollow body and opposite the opening outside of which the agent is vaporized in order to distribute the agent on all of the said surfaces.

3. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the sterilizing agent is chosen from among the agents an agent available in liquid phase, such as hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid or other.

4. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 1, characterized in that further comprising suppressing particles or non-adherent elements present in the hollow body prior to the phases of vaporizing and introduction of distributing the agent into the hollow body are preceded by a phase of suppression of particles or other non-adherent elements present in the hollow body.

5. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 4, characterized in that wherein the suppression phase suppressing of particles or non-adherent elements is carried out by insulation.

6. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 4, characterized in that wherein the suppression phase suppressing of particules or non-adherent elements is carried out by aspiration.

7. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 1, characterized in that the vaporizing phase is followed, further comprising withdrawing the remaining sterilizing agent after vaporizing and after a period of contact by the agent with the surface[[s]] to be sterilized, by a phase of withdrawal of the remaining sterilizing agent.

8. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 7, characterized in that the withdrawal phase wherein withdrawing the remaining sterilizing agent is carried out by injection introduction of a withdrawal agent in the inside of the hollow body.

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9. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the withdrawal agent is a sterile dry or hot gas.

10. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 9, characterized in that wherein the withdrawal agent is brought by aspiration into the inside of the hollow body, by using aspiration means acting in the hollow body opposite its opening.

11. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the sterile gas withdrawal agent is hot air injected using a hot air nozzle.

12. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 8, characterized in that the withdrawal phase wherein withdrawing the remaining sterilizing agent is carried out with the use of a flame injected by a burner and brought by aspiration into the inside of the hollow body, by using with the use of the aspiration means acting in the latter hollow body opposite its opening.

13. (currently amended): The Method method according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein the withdrawal agent, dry or hot gas or flame respectively, is injected on the outside of the opening of the hollow body close to its opening before being introduced into the inside of the hollow body.

14. (currently amended): Device A device for carrying out the method according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the comprising a means (1) for injection of a vaporizable sterilizing agent, and an evaporator (2) disposed across from the output of the injection means (1), and aspiration a means of aspiration (7, 13; 40, 41), which has an opening out into within the hollow body, the means of aspiration acting in such a way as to act inside same the hollow body to cause a gaseous current guiding to guide the vaporized agent toward the

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interior surfaces of [[a]] the hollow body (9; 38) when the ~~latter~~ hollow body is in place with respect to the device.

15. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 14, characterized in that wherein the evaporator is enclosed in a housing (3; 36) arranged on the outside of the opening of the hollow body (9; 38) ~~close to the opening of the latter~~ and provided with an opening (4) across from the output of the means (1) of injection, ~~of and wherein the housing has~~ an open end having ~~the~~ a shape and interior dimensions ~~essentially~~ corresponding to those of the ~~interior~~ opening of the hollow body (9; 38).

16. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 14, characterized in that wherein the means of aspiration (7, 13; 40, 40 41) ~~for causing the gaseous current are made up of~~ comprise a tube (7; 40) connected to an aspiration source (13; 41).

17. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 16, characterized in that ~~since~~ wherein the hollow body is in the shape of a container, i.e. such that it is open at one of its ends and closed at the other, and wherein the tube (7) is ~~introduced~~ disposed through the opening of the hollow body[[;]], and the tube has ~~an~~ a first end opening out next to located at the base of the hollow body and ~~its~~ a second end[[,]] located at ~~the~~ a side of ~~the~~ a housing (3), the second end being ~~is~~ connected to the aspiration source (13).

18. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 17, characterized in that wherein the tube (7) crosses the evaporator (2) and the housing (3).

19. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 16, characterized in that ~~since~~ wherein the hollow body (38) is a tube or a conduit open at two opposite ends, and wherein the aspiration is carried out by arranging the aspiration tube (40) at the end of the hollow body opposite the one end where the injection of the vaporizable sterilizing agent takes place.

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20. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 14, characterized in that it comprises the comprising means for withdrawing the sterilizing agent after a period of contact in the hollow body.

21. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 20, characterized in that wherein the means for withdrawing have comprise a generator (16; 21) for dry or hot sterile air.

22. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 21, characterized in that wherein the generator is a burner (21).

23. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 21, characterized in that wherein the generator (16;21) is placed outside of the opening of the hollow body, and if the generator has means to direct the heat inside the hollow body.

24. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 23, characterized in that wherein the means to direct the heat are made up of comprises an aspiration tube (7; 22; 40) of which the having an aspiration end opens out into with an opening in the hollow body in a zone such that is at a distance from its opening in order to direct the heat is directed into all of the hollow body.

25. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 24, characterized in that since wherein the hollow body is a container, and the tube (7; 22) penetrates through the opening of the latter container and opens out close to its contains an opening at the base of the container.

26. (currently amended): Device The device according to claim 24, characterized in that since wherein the hollow body is a tube or a conduit, and the tube (40) is arranged at the end

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of the hollow body opposite to ~~that close to the end at~~ which the heat generator (16; 21) is located.

27. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 14, characterized in that it comprises the further comprising means for carrying out a suppression of suppressing dust or other particles previous prior to the vaporizing phase and the placement of distributing the sterilizing agent.

28. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 27, characterized in that the suppression wherein suppressing is carried out by aspiration and/or insulation.

29. (currently amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 14, characterized in that it wherein the device is surrounded by a laminar flow (35) of sterile gas, in excess pressure, such as air.

30. (currently amended): ~~Installation~~ An installation for manufacturing and/or filling containers, characterized in that it comprises comprising a machine (29) for fabrication/filling of the containers and a device according to claim 14.

31. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein the sterilizing agent is hydrogen peroxide or peracetic acid.

32. (new): The device according to claim 29, wherein the sterile gas is air.